



Doctor Walker

EDU 109

Building Your Preschool Library Assignment

18 November 2025

Weekly Focus Areas

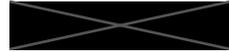
Week 1: Reflecting on the Power of Books

Book: Clever Beatrice by Margaret Willey

A book from my childhood that stood out to me is *Clever Beatrice*. This book is the first of a series about a young girl who is very clever, and this quality helps her succeed in many situations. This book stood out to me as the girl in the book has the same name as I do, and as a child with a generally rare name, that was really special.

The artwork in this book is beautiful and unique. The artwork impressed me, and since it is so unique, it was very memorable and interesting to me. The story has a repetitive nature in that the character Beatrice uses similar wording and tactics to succeed. This repetitiveness was helpful to me as it made the book easier to understand and remember. This story takes place in North America, and since that is where I am from, that also was really fascinating to me.

The books that I would pick for preschoolers would be appropriate to their age and grade level. I would also pick books that are clear, direct, and covering topics that they would find intriguing or relatable. I think that it would be wise to have a wide variety of books in my preschool classroom library. Having a wide variety of books would account for all of the students' interests. However, depending on my class each year, I would add books that relate to the students personally.



I would ask and learn about my students' lives, cultures, and backgrounds to understand them better. Through the information that I would continuously gather, I would incorporate books that would help them see themselves in the classroom library. Also, I would have books in my classroom library that were different from what my students were used to so that they could be exposed to a diverse selection of books. Exposing my students to a diverse selection of books would help them be open to other people who are different from them. Also, it would give them a window into new and novel experiences. **These types of books would build an excellent classroom library with a wide variety of high quality and culturally conscious works.**

Week 2: Books About Rhyming

Book 1: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr.

The book *Brown Bear, Brown Bear* by Bill Martin, Jr. is a book that has rhyming words and patterns. This book is a very simple but lovely way to introduce preschoolers to rhyming. The art is a little bit minimalistic, and the students would already be familiar with the animals and colors. With these very simple concepts and this art, the child would be able to more easily recognize rhyming and the patterns within the book because they would stand out. Also, since it is so repetitive, it would ingrain the rhyming nature of the book more fully and clearly, especially if it was being read aloud. By hearing the rhyming words again and again, the students would automatically start to recognize and mentally group certain words that sound similar as compared to words that sound completely different. This would help the students on their journey of understanding rhyming words.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear is good for preschool students' early reading skills as it is very easy to understand. The sentences used are almost completely the same except for the name of the animal in question which changes. This would help the students become very familiar with



short or one syllable words. The book would also aid the students in recognizing these same words in future further reading.

Book 2: Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle

Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle is another book that has rhyming words and patterns. This book would help kids hear and understand rhyming words as it is slow moving and also full of familiar animal sounds. The slow pace would allow the students to more fully hear and grasp the rhyming rhythms as they would be clearer. Since the animal sounds would already be familiar to the students, they would better be able to hear the similarities between the words related to animal sounds that they already know.

Little Blue Truck is a good book for preschool students' early reading skills as most of the words are not difficult to read and the repetitive nature in which the animals speak is conducive to early literacy skills. Most of the words in the book are words that students would be better able to sound out or recognize which makes this a good book for early reading skills. The way that the animals speak is very repetitive with the noises listed in sentences and the only word changing being the sound that they make. This would aid students in reading skills as being able to read or recognize a larger percentage of the words in a book would help students gain confidence in their own reading abilities. Also, the formulaic way in which the animals respond to the truck would assist the students in knowing what comes next or in possibly predicting what could come next.

Book 3: Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner

Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner is a final book that would help preschool students hear and understand rhyming words and patterns. Although the words in this book are more complex, it is still a simple story that has very obvious rhyming patterns. The students would be



able to hear these patterns as even though the words are generally more complex, the words that rhyme at the end of the sentences are almost identical. For instance, “others” and “mothers”. In the same way, since the rhymes are so similar, they also aid the students in understanding what rhyming words are as it is easier than other books to recognize how similar the words are and why they rhyme.

Snowmen at Night is good for preschoolers’ early reading skills as it introduces them to some more intricate and flowery words while still keeping the concepts and story line simple and easy to understand. The actions of building a snowman, drinking hot cocoa, or sledding down a hill would be familiar to preschoolers, and so it is a good platform to present some more complicated wording. This would not necessarily mean that the students would be able to read all of these words, but allowing them to see and hear the words would aid them in extending their vocabulary. This could in turn help them in understanding the vocabulary in books that they read later on and therefore aid in reading comprehension. These three books are good options to help preschoolers become more familiar with rhymes as well as assist them in their early literacy journey.

Week 3: Non-Fiction Books

Book 1: Animals on the Farm SHEEP by Wendy Stobel Dieker

A book that teaches new knowledge to preschoolers is *Animals on the Farm SHEEP* by Wendy Stobel Dieker. This book teaches children all about sheep. Children may not have experience with sheep, and this book gives children age-appropriate information about sheep. The book explains where sheep live, what they eat, and explains what ewes and lambs are. It also teaches children about the different parts of a sheep, such as their wool and horns.

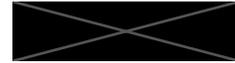


The non-fiction book *Animals on the Farm SHEEP* is excellent for preschoolers as it is a simple introduction to a familiar farm animal. It is a good option as it contains basic but interesting information about sheep and what they are like. It is important that preschoolers absorb this real world sheep knowledge so that they are informed about an animal that even if they may have never seen before in person, is still very important in the world because of what it can provide. This book is also a great option for preschoolers as it has unique vocabulary. Throughout the book, and especially at the end in the “Picture Glossary”, there are explanations of key sheep vocabulary including such words as “bleat, flock,” and, “fleece”. This would expose preschoolers to new vocabulary which would aid them in reading and comprehension.

Book 2: Exploring the States

Another book that teaches new knowledge to preschoolers is *Exploring the States*. This book contains information about each state, and it would expand preschoolers knowledge of the United States of America. *Exploring the States* gives short facts about each state. It is also a lift-the-flap book. This means that it has flaps that the children could lift and underneath find and learn about each state’s capital, bird, and flower.

This non-fiction book, *Exploring the States*, is good for preschoolers as it gives them practical information about the United States of America. They could then use this information in their everyday lives in the future. The students may recognize the states that are familiar to them, but they may not recognize many that are unfamiliar to them, and this book would aid them in recognizing more states. Visually this is a helpful resource for preschoolers as it pictures each state. Also, as the book explains something about each state, it also shows where in the United States of America that state is located. This would help children see the “bigger picture”. This book generally would be good for preschoolers’ geography skills.



Book 3: Animals do the Strangest Things by Leonora and Arthur Hornblow

A final book that teaches new knowledge to preschoolers is *Animals do the Strangest Things* by Leonora and Arthur Hornblow. This book teaches children about a variety of animals. Most of these animals are unique and not necessarily what a child would encounter in their everyday lives. For example, the book discusses camels, platypuses, and sloths. The book teaches children especially about the fascinating and sometimes odd ways of these animals. This book explains each animal almost as if it is a person and a description of their lifestyle which would help preschoolers better understand the information. The book has a section for each animal with a potent label that has something to do with a characteristic of the animal such as, “The Gentle Giant” for the elephant.

The non-fiction book, *Animals do the Strangest Things*, is wonderful for preschoolers as it is a fun way to teach preschoolers about special animals. This book is far from boring. It is a fun book that sounds like a story but is full of actual information that preschoolers would enjoy. The children would stay engaged with the accessible way in which it is written. The sentences in this book are short and would be easy for preschoolers to understand. Although a few of the words are outdated, it is still a book that would work in today's preschool classroom. *Animals do the Strangest Things* also has a humorous tone and style to it. This playfulness would aid preschoolers in being receptive to the information presented in the book. Most importantly, this book gives students a look into the actual lives of many unique animals. This is excellent for preschoolers' background knowledge skills. These three non-fiction books are excellent resources that teach children important real-life information in interesting and age appropriate ways.

Week 4: Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Books



Book 1: The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

The book *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson is a book that would help kids learn about their feelings, especially their feelings on the first day of school. This book is artistically written about different children on the first day of school. It is written as though the author is speaking directly to a child. The tone is very warm and expressive. These things may make a child be open to listening to the story and the book's message. The message is to encourage children to not be afraid, intimidated, or lonely. This book helps children understand that their stories are special, even if they are not spectacular like everyone else's. The book explains how sharing one's story can help connect them to others, even if one is scared to share it.

The Day You Begin is an important book for social-emotional learning as it addresses a very real set of emotions. Beginning a new school year is sometimes frightening and intimidating for children. This book validates those emotions while leading students in a direction of confidence and bravery. It also displays a diverse set of children and their experiences feeling left out and lonely. This would help children see themselves and their emotions in this book. The book is also good for social-emotional learning as it encourages children to reach out to others, even when some people exclude them. This book is an encouraging and heartfelt message to children that their emotions and experiences are valid.

Book 2: We Ask Permission by Lydia Bowers

We Ask Permission by Lydia Bowers is a book that would help kids learn about physical boundaries and body language. This would help kids improve their relationships with others. The book is about a little boy, Jovan, who is at first very physically outgoing to his classmates. He quickly learns that others do not like that. His teacher explains to him how he can read others' body language cues to figure out how they are feeling. Jovan also learns that he must ask

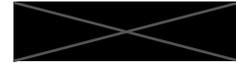


permission to touch people. By the end of the book, Jovan has demonstrated his ability to physically interact well with his classmates, teachers, and pets. This book would help children learn about physical boundaries. It could especially help naturally touch-oriented children. The book would clearly teach some important body language reading skills to kids. They could then practice those same skills in their own classrooms and everyday lives. This is a very practical book for children to help them learn about physical boundaries with their classmates and friends.

The book *We Ask Permission* is excellent for social-emotional learning as it teaches children how to read other people's body language cues and what physical boundaries are. This book is important especially for children who struggle with social-emotional experiences. The book gives clear guidelines for children. This book teaches children that instead of suppressing their emotions and urges to physically interact with others they can channel them respectfully. The book is wonderful as it teaches all of these things in a simple and fun way that is easy to understand.

Book 3: The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett and Gary Rubenstein

The book *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* by Mark Pett and Gary Rubenstein is a lovely option for kids to learn about their feelings, particularly overcoming anxiety and fear. This book is about a girl named Beatrice who never makes mistakes. She lives in fear of making a mistake. When she almost makes a mistake, it worries her. Then one day, she makes a mistake in front of everybody. She immediately realizes that it was actually funny. She eventually realizes that it is good to make mistakes, learn from them, and have fun. This is a great book for kids to learn how to manage their anxious feelings by realizing that it is alright to make mistakes. This book would especially be good for students who tend to be fearfully perfectionistic.



The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes is an important book for social-emotional learning as it would help kids better understand anxiety, fear, and perfectionism. Since the book explains these concepts through the story in a way that is accessible to children, they would not even realize that they are learning them. It seems that in an increasingly anxious and fearful world, children will also become more anxious and fearful. This book would be a wonderful option, then, for children today. This book teaches children that making mistakes is not the end of the world. The book explains that making mistakes can end in creative and fun solutions. These three books are amazing resources for helping children learn about feelings and how to interact well with others. They are also all excellent for students' social-emotional learning.

Week 5: Books about Friendship

Book 1: Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel

The book *Frog and Toad Together* by Arnold Lobel is a good book to help children understand what it means to be a good friend. The book follows the characters Frog and Toad through many adventures and adversities. Sometimes one of the characters is being unreasonable or not understanding something, and sometimes both of them are struggling with something. However, in the end, they end up working together to find a solution. This **situation** would help children better understand how to work together with their friends to find solutions. This book would especially be good for helping children work through conflicts. **It** would also help children know that a friendship takes help or input from both or all **people**, not just one person giving and the other person taking.

This book is important for preschoolers to learn about friendship as it displays situations that could occur in their life and in their friendships. Through this book preschoolers would be better able to understand themselves and others. **The** book teaches children how to balance being



honest and being kind to others. It also teaches children how to stand up for themselves within their friendships. The book shows that each person has unique qualities and characteristics to add to the friendship. This would help students be more inclusive in who they were friends with and who they talked to. Overall this book would be a great model for preschoolers to learn about friendship.

Book 2: Toot and Puddle by Holly Hobbie

The book *Toot and Puddle* by Holly Hobbie is an amazing book to help children understand what it means to be a good friend. The book is about two pigs named Toot and Puddle. It follows their lives throughout one year. Toot is traveling the entire year and Puddle stays at home the entire year. They communicate through postcards. They both have lots of fun and good experiences, and after missing each other, they happily reunite at the end. This book is great for children to learn about being a good friend as it shows that every person's experiences are valuable and important. The book shows that even though friends might go through different things, their friendship can still stay strong.

The book *Toot and Puddle* is important for preschoolers to learn about friendship as it provides a really interesting situation that may reflect situations that some children have gone through. It could help children who have been separated from a friend for any reason or for any amount of time. The book could give them the idea that they could write letters or postcards to each other to keep the friendship strong. Also, this book could help preschoolers not compare their experiences or lives to their friends' lives. The book follows both what Toot and Puddle are doing throughout the year, and does not make either seem more or less good or fun, they are just different. This could help preschoolers know that even if they do not travel to faraway places or do crazy things, that their experiences are still valuable and important. It also teaches the



students who may have traveled far and wide to value the close-to-home experiences of their friends.

Book 3: Sorry (Really Sorry) by Joanna Cotler

The book *Sorry (Really Sorry)* by Joanna Cotler is a good book to help children understand what it means to be a good friend. The book is about the chain or domino effect that comes from one person having a bad day and one person being kind. The book starts with Cow being mean to Duck, Duck then being mean to Frog, and so on until it reaches Dog. Throughout, the characters say that they are sorry but they do not really mean it. Dog, however, changes the cycle. Dog decides to be kind and helps Pig apologize. Then the cycle reverses itself and everyone says they are sorry to the animal that they were mean to, and they actually mean that they are sorry. This book shows children the power of kindness.

The book *Sorry (Really Sorry)* is important for preschoolers to learn about friendship as it gives them a real life example of how to change the cycle of being mean by being kind and apologizing. It would teach children that even if one says something, they may not always mean it. It also shows children the importance of actually meaning what one says. Finally, it helps children know how to truly and genuinely apologize to their friends. These books were all excellent examples of books that help children understand what it means to be a good friend. They also aid in teaching children the importance of friendship.

Week 6: Books with Simple Concepts

Book 1: The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

The book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle teaches children mainly about numbers and days of the week, but also about shapes and colors to a lesser extent. The book follows a caterpillar through approximately one week. The book teaches children the numbers



one through five as the caterpillar eats one apple, two pears, three plums, four strawberries, five oranges, and then many single other picnic foods each counted by the number one. The book also introduces children to the days of the week as the caterpillar eats each food. For instance, on Monday the caterpillar eats one apple. This book also teaches children about colors as the book is very colorful and uniquely illustrated. Also, the book teaches children about shapes as the fruit is generally shaped the same way and repeats its pattern. However, each fruit is shaped slightly differently as natural fruit is.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar makes it fun and easy for children to learn about the concepts of numbers, days of the week, shapes, and colors. The book makes it enjoyable for children to learn numbers as it slowly progresses through the numbers and gives concrete objects like fruit to help the children count. The book also makes it less hard for children to learn the days of the week as they are marking points in the story that children could follow along with. The book also has very special colors and shades which could help children be more attracted to the book and learn the simple concepts better. Children could also learn to recognize in a fun way shapes that are not exactly perfect, but very similar to shapes that the students may already know. For example, even though an apple is not a perfect circle, the children could see the similarity between them and start to recognize shapes in the real, natural world.

Book 2: My Shapes Mis Formas by Rebecca Emberley

The book *My Shapes Mis Formas* by Rebecca Emberley teaches children about shapes especially. This book teaches children about basic shapes. For each shape, the book presents the plain shape by itself, and then on the page next to it, it places the shape in the context of an object from life that children would recognize. For example, for the square shape, it has a blue square on the left page and on the right page there is the same blue square but with the addition



of a roof, windows, a door and so on to make a house. Another example is a crescent which becomes a moon in the night sky. The book is also bilingual. For each shape and real life object, the book has the Spanish translation right after the English word.

My Shapes Mis Formas makes it fun and easy for children to learn about shapes. This book takes shapes and makes them interesting by decorating them into actual real world things and objects. The book is also colorful and amusing so that children could still have fun while learning. However, the illustrations are minimalistic enough to not be overwhelming for the children. Lastly, the bilingual aspect of the book could be an easy way to incorporate simple Spanish words for both native English speakers and to help English language learners connect words that they know to the English words and concepts.

Book 3: My Opposites Mis Opuestos by Rebecca Emberley

The book *My Opposites Mis Opuestos* also by Rebecca Emberley teaches the simple concept of things that are opposite and uses colors and shapes to emphasize these concepts. As in the name, the book is full of opposites. The first example is “over” versus “under”. The second is long versus short. The illustration for long versus short has a long snake and a short worm. The book utilizes colors to accentuate opposites. For example, there is a “plain” bird that is a beige color and a “fancy” bird that is many different bright colors. The book also uses shapes to present opposites. For instance, there is the shape of a moose's long head for the word “wide” and the shape of an antelope's thin head for the word “narrow”. This book is also bilingual with the Spanish translation of the English word that is being read.

My Opposites Mis Opuestos makes it fun and easy for children to learn the simple concept of opposites. The book is very uncomplicated and clear which would make it easier for children to understand the lesson of the book. This book also makes it fun for children to learn



about opposites as it has funny comparisons. For example, a silly cat “on” a chair and the same silly cat “off” of the chair. The book has striking colors which stand out on the page and would be eye catching and interesting to children, and this would make the book more intriguing to children. The book is also full of familiar animals that children could connect to. Overall, these three books teach children about shapes, colors, and numbers, and other simple concepts in a way that is fun and easy for them to learn.

Week 7: Books for Imagination and Creativity

Book 1: Pretend by Jennifer Plecas

Pretend by Jennifer Plecas is a good example of a book that encourages creativity and imagination in children. *Pretend* is about a little boy playing a make-believe adventure game with his father. Throughout the book, the father and son pretend to be in a place they are not and doing things that they are not with the real things around them. For example, they pretend that the couch they are on is a boat. Another instance is that they pretend blankets are huge leaves to make a tent. The characters use everyday objects to imagine a whole new world and a fun adventure. In the end the father and son connect by agreeing that they themselves are both awesome in the real world and in the pretend world. The book could inspire children to imagine a pretend world with the real world people and objects around them. Since there is another real person in the story, this could encourage children to involve others in their pretend play.

The book *Pretend* by Jennifer Plecas is helpful for preschoolers as it can aid them in using their imaginations and in becoming more creative. This book could also encourage pretend play in children. Children can take what they read and hear in the book and apply it to their own playtime. This book can inspire kids to pretend play by themselves or with others. Since children imitate what they see modeled in others, it is important that the books they consume are full of



inspiration. In this case, this type of book is great for preschoolers as they can model being creative and using their imagination in fun and playful ways.

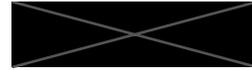
Book 2: The Usborne Book of Art by Usborne

The Usborne Book of Art by Usborne is an excellent book that encourages creativity and imagination in children. This book has “over 200 ideas” that have to do with creativity in art. The book mainly focuses on many different kinds of painting and painting inspiration and ideas. The book could teach children the basics of many different types of painting and printing so that they can have the skills that they need to make art. This book includes important simple concepts like patterns, shapes, and lines, which the children could then use in their future art projects.

The book *The Usborne Book of Art* by Usborne is a practical and helpful book for preschoolers. This book has concrete knowledge which children could use as a jumping off point for their own creative endeavors. If a child does not know where to start, a book like this could give the child inspiration and guidance to become more creative. The book includes different ways of looking at familiar experiences and objects. This could spark a thought in a child which could then turn into a project that they are excited to produce.

Book 3: The Paper Kingdom by Helena Ku Rhee

The Paper Kingdom by Helena Ku Rhee is a fun book to encourage creativity and imagination in children. The story follows a young boy and his parents. The boy ends up having to go with his parents to their night job. The boy is upset and tired, but as the parents complete their jobs as night janitors, they make up a story for their son. They call the place they are cleaning “The Paper Kingdom” and explain the situation of their workplace in a child-friendly way. They also make an otherwise unpleasant situation for their son into a fun experience. This



book is an inspiration for adults and children as it shows hope and creativity in the midst of hardship and unpleasant circumstances.

The book *The Paper Kingdom* by Helena Ku Rhee is a helpful book for preschoolers. It is an example of how children are very imaginative. It is helpful because it could aid preschoolers in turning their own unpleasant or bland life experiences into fun and imaginative adventures. The book is also helpful to preschoolers as it represents a situation that a young child could actually be in. The parents of the child in the book both work nights, and this could prove difficult to manage. However, the book shows that even when things go wrong, there is always a way to see the bright or interesting sides of things. Certain families and children might also see themselves in this story and feel represented. Overall, these are fantastic choices for books that help children become more imaginative and creative in their everyday lives and in their art endeavors.

Week 8: Books That Talk About Family and Community

Book 1: Thank you, Omu! by Oge Mora

The book *Thank you, Omu!* by Oge Mora helps children better understand community in a very lovely story. The book is about an elderly woman who is referred to as “Omu” which literally means “queen” but is also used as a word for “grandma”. Omu makes a delicious stew which many people around the city end up smelling. These people come and ask Omu for some stew and one by one, Omu shares her stew with them. When she finishes feeding the people, there is no stew left for her and she is sad. Then, the people that she fed earlier surprise her with a meal in which everyone brings something, and they have a wonderful time and thank Omu for her generosity. Omu is repaid for her kindness towards others. The book reflects on the values of generosity and kindness within communities. These themes could help children understand that



communities are groups of people who give and receive, and who help each other in their own unique ways. This story of community could help children see a model of what a healthy and loving community of people working together and helping each other looks like.

Thank you, Omu! is an important book about community for preschoolers to read as the story shows them a diverse community which works together for good, and preschoolers could benefit from learning about what communities can accomplish and why they are advantageous. The book shows children how to be generous and sharing members of a community in the character of Omu who shares all that she has. The book also shows children how to reciprocate generosity when someone has been generous to oneself in the characters who share what they have to make a meal in the end. The book ultimately demonstrates to children that communities work together for everyone's good, and this would help children concretely understand this fact and aim to model it in their lives. A teacher could encourage children to try to model generosity in their own communities and families or reciprocate generosity when someone is generous towards them.

Book 2: Busy, Busy Town by Richard Scarry

The book *Busy, Busy Town* by Richard Scarry helps children understand community in a fun and child friendly way. The book covers many different scenarios including “At the Post Office”, “The Busytown School”, “Busy Housekeepers”, “Keeping Busytown Clean”, “Down on the Farm”, and many more instances in which characters are seen completing their jobs and working together. “At the Post Office” shows how postal workers carefully carry out all of the steps to deliver the mail. “The Busytown School” demonstrates how the bus driver, the schoolteacher, and the janitor all contribute to the functioning of the school. “Busy Housekeepers” discusses how everyone in a house completes their chores and tasks so that the



house is clean and pretty. “Keeping Busytown Clean” pictures characters working in the town cleaning the streets and dealing with garbage and recycling. “Down on the Farm” mentions all of the jobs farmers carry out and how they work hard to supply food and other resources for others. This book shows many different characters and their jobs and how everyone in the community helps each other by executing their own unique job or task. This book would help children understand how people in a town all work together so that the town is successful and happy.

Busy, Busy Town is important for preschoolers to read because it explains practical details of how people in a community collaborate for the good of everyone. This book carefully demonstrates to preschoolers that each person in a community and their job, no matter how small, aids the community. Also, since the characters in this book are animals, it is a fun way for preschoolers to learn about different jobs that citizens may have. Since preschoolers could connect with these familiar animals they would be better able to understand the concepts of community that are in the book. This book would also be good for children to read as they may see a family member or friend’s job or occupation within the book and be able to point that out. Through this, the children could realize that their family member or friend is an important part of their community.

Book 3: I Love Us: A Book About Family by Luisa Uribe (Illustrator)

The book *I Love Us: A Book About Family* by Luisa Uribe (Illustrator) is a great book to help children understand family. This book shows many different families and different activities that they carry out together. The book repeats “I love how we...” and fills in different ways that families love each other. For example, the book states, “I love how we make pancakes for breakfast....and messes for lunch”. The book shows a family with two small children enjoying



their meals together. The book celebrates diverse families and represents a variety of family experiences.

It is important for preschoolers to read about family in the book *I Love Us: A Book About Family* as it shows them varying families and individual activities that families participate in together. It is important for preschoolers to be able to see themselves and what their families complete in what they are reading, and this book fulfills that requirement. Also, this book would help children see other types of families, and that is also important for children. This book is an accessible resource for children to celebrate family and to share about their own families and family experiences. Overall, these books are amazing options for preschoolers to better understand families and communities and how they help and love each other and work together. It is important for children to read these books so that they can understand these concepts more accurately.

Week 9: Books That Help with Problem Solving

Book 1: Solutions for Cold Feet and Other Little Problems by Carey Sookocheff

Solutions for Cold Feet and Other Little Problems by Carey Sookocheff is a lovely little book about problem solving. The book follows a little girl and her dog who run into problems throughout their day. For each problem, the book offers multiple solutions. Sometimes these solutions are practical, and sometimes they are funny. For example, the solutions for a missing shoe are to “check in the closet, look under the bed, search behind the couch and under the table, and wear a mismatched pair”. While reading this book, children will think about different situations and how to find solutions to the problems that arise.

It is good for children to learn about problem solving. Preschoolers require a lot of training in how to overcome a problem, and this book offers an engaging and practical way for



them to do that. A teacher could offer certain situations for the children to find solutions for in their own life. Also, this book could help children with simple story comprehension.

Book 2: My Magical Choices by Becky Cummings

My Magical Choices by Becky Cummings is a good book for talking to children about the choices that they make. The book pictures a variety of diverse children making choices. The child says “I choose to be....”, then inserts a word like “responsible”, for example. The child then explains that this means taking care of their body and cleaning up after themselves. The book introduces many more choices children can make. Some of them are choosing to be helpful, patient, confident, generous, calm, and so on. This book also emphasizes how these choices affect the child and the people around the child. The children then read how they are in control of the choices that they make and how these choices can be wonderful.

It is very essential that preschoolers learn and discuss how to make good choices. Especially at a young age, children must understand that their choices have consequences, both good and bad. This book shows children how positive choices make positive outcomes. As children read this book, they can think of ways in which they can model each choice the child in the book makes. For example, when the teacher reads the page about being a good sport, they could ask the children how they could be a good sport if they were playing a game. *My Magical Choices* has many important words about feelings and decisions that children can learn through reading it.

Book 3: Yasmin the Fashionista by Saadia Faruqi

Yasmin the Fashionista by Saadia Faruqi teaches children about what to do when they make mistakes. The book is about a young girl who is bored at home with her grandmother and grandfather. She decides to make a play fashion show with her mother’s clothing. Yasmin has



fun with her grandmother playing the fashion show until she makes a mistake. Her grandmother accidentally steps on the kameez that Yasmin is wearing and it tears. Instead of hiding her mistake, Yazmin is honest about it. She and her first grandmother try to fix it in traditional ways, like with a sewing machine. While that takes too long, Yazmin thinks of a creative way to fix her mistakes. Yazmin uses a glue gun to fix the kameez. She and her grandmother present their fashion show to Yazmin's parents, and the story ends happily. Yazmin's experience shows children how to deal with their mistakes. Yazmin's creative solution helps children think of how to come up with solutions of their own. Yazmin also teaches children to be honest about their mistakes.

It is important for preschoolers to learn about how to deal with their mistakes. When children make mistakes, they can find inspiration from Yasmin. Preschoolers should learn how to deal with mistakes in a way that is creative. For example, if a child makes a mistake in a craft, they can find a way to make that mistake into an important part of their work. Teachers can model this when they themselves make mistakes. If a teacher messes something up, they can speak through their thought process to show children how to do the same thing. Children can then take this modeling and understand that mistakes are normal. Also, Yazmin's family speaks the Urdu language. Children would be able to increase their vocabulary by learning some simple words in the language like "kameez" (long tunic) or "salaam" (hello).

Week 10: Classic Books for Preschoolers

Book 1: Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown is an important classic book for preschoolers. It is a standard book to read before bedtime or naptime, and so it is excellent for young children. The story starts with a description of a room. The book progresses through different items in the



room like a picture, kittens, a brush, and so on. Some of these items rhyme with each other. The room belongs to a rabbit family with an old lady bunny and a little bunny. The little bunny then says goodnight to each item in the room. The bunny also creatively says goodnight to other things, for example, the stars and “nobody”. The story ends calmly with a scene of the sleepy dark room.

The book *Goodnight Moon* is a valuable addition to a preschool library. This book gives children a calming experience because of its simplicity. The simple style of writing is easy for children to understand. The repetitiveness of the story is predictable and not difficult for them to remember. Since children can easily remember the story, it could become a book that is loved by them and is read many times. Especially for preschoolers, teachers could use this book to calm and relax their students. Also, students’ comprehension skills are supported through the repetitiveness of the story. This work is a wonderful book that has a lot to offer to a preschool audience.

Book 2: Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss is an important book for preschoolers in so many ways. It is an engaging story of persistence and new experiences. The story is about a character named “Sam-I-Am” and another unnamed character. The plot is that “Sam-I-Am” tries to get the unnamed character to try his “green eggs and ham”. “Sam-I-Am” asks the unnamed character whether he would try the food in a wide variety of different places and situations. “Sam-I-Am” also asks if the unnamed character would try the “green eggs and ham” with certain other characters, like a fox and a mouse. In the end, “Sam-I-Am” is so persistent that the unnamed character finally gives in and tries the food. The unnamed character is pleasantly surprised when he actually enjoys what he is eating and thanks “Sam-I-Am”. The story of this book shows

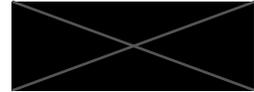


children characters who persevere, are steadfast, and who are not afraid to admit that they were wrong. These are very important models for young students.

Green Eggs and Ham is such a valuable book to have in a preschool classroom. It contains many lessons about character. The story shows children how to keep on trying even when it seems like it will not work in the character of “Sam-I-Am”. Students could also learn how to stand firm in what they want in the main character without a name. Also, preschoolers can learn that it is alright to change one’s mind and to acknowledge it, similar to the unnamed character in the story. This book has rhyming, repetitive wording, patterns, and ideas that build on each other. All of these things are amazing for young children’s literacy development. The repetitiveness and predictability could also help English Language Learners. A teacher could use this book for many different reasons, including its rich literacy value and for student engagement.

Book 3: If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond is a great book for preschoolers. The book explores the concept of cause and effect in a way that is accessible to children. The story is about a mouse and a little boy. There is a narrator who tells the story. The narrator starts with the phrase “If you give a mouse a cookie...” and then speaks about all of the things that could happen because the mouse got the cookie. For example, since the mouse received a cookie, he wants milk. Then after he drinks the milk, he will want to make sure that he does not have a milk mustache, and so on. In the end, the story circles all of the way back to the mouse wanting a cookie again. This story is a fun way for preschoolers to learn about consequences.

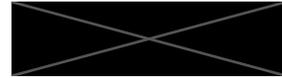


If You Give a Mouse a Cookie contains lessons and experiences that make it very worthwhile to have in a preschool setting. It teaches preschoolers that when one performs an action, something happens that was caused by the action, or cause and effect. However, this is shown to children in a way that is very developmentally appropriate. This book contains simple sentences that expose children to core vocabulary which would improve their literacy skills. A teacher could use this to demonstrate how when a student performs an action, whether helpful or otherwise, it has an influence on their environment. Students could come up with examples of cause and effect in their classroom and in their lives. These books are all classic and timeless selections that are important and valuable pieces of a preschool curriculum.



Reflection on My Preschool Library

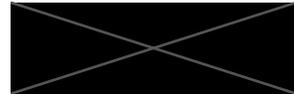
The books in my preschool library are balanced because there are many different types of books. There are multiple examples of how my library spans many areas of children's books. My collection has books about rhyming. Rhyming books help children's literacy as they are exposed to a new or different way of writing. Books with rhyming can also help children's vocabulary improve. My collection has non-fiction books as well. Non-fiction books are important for preschoolers as they contain real-world information that is necessary for them to know. These books convey this information in engaging and age appropriate ways. Non-fiction books can aid children in reading comprehension and background knowledge. My library also has social-emotional learning books. Social-emotional learning books are valuable for children because they discuss emotions and interactions with others. They help children understand and process their feelings. These books also extend children's emotional vocabulary and give them the tools to express themselves. My collection has books about friendship, too. Books about friendship are invaluable to preschoolers as they discuss relationships, comparison, and apologizing. These books model for children what good friendships look like and the concept of giving and receiving in a way that is easy to understand. I have books in my library with simple concepts. Books with simple concepts are great for children as they are accessible and practical. They are fun and interesting books that teach kids about shapes, colors, days of the week, etc. Also, they include important, simple vocabulary that students should learn. I am happy that there are books about imagination and creativity in my collection as well. These books spark children's minds and give them ideas for creative and dramatic play. They also inspire kids to make art and pursue their interests. In my library, there are books that talk about family and community. They have points about how communities are good for everyone and how people work together to help each



other. Teachers and students could model a mini-community within the classroom. The books also talk about diverse families and so children would be represented and learn about other families. My collection also has books that help with problem solving. Books like these are so good for young students. They help them to work through problems with other people. They also discuss making good choices and dealing with mistakes. Finally, I have classic books to complete my preschool library. These classics could help develop children's literacy skills through patterns and rhyming. They also introduce more in-depth concepts, for example, cause-and-effect, in a developmentally appropriate way. These books have stood the test of time and are widely loved. I am satisfied with the variety of books that are in my preschool library, and I think that they are balanced, appropriate, and enjoyable.

The books in my preschool library show diversity in numerous ways. For example, they demonstrate diversity through different cultures. In *Thank you, Omu!* by Oge Mora, the main character, Omu, is African-American and represents the Igbo culture. In *Yasmin the Fashionista* by Saadia Faruqi, Yazmin's family speaks Urdu which is the language of Pakistan. In many of the other books, the people represented are diverse and show different cultures. A couple of my books are bilingual. These are *My Shapes Mis Formas* by Rebecca Emberley and *My Opposites Mis Opuestos* also by Rebecca Emberley. These could be helpful to English Language Learners as they have translations of the Spanish words. I also have books that show diverse families. In general, there are books that represent different types of families. In particular, *I Love Us: A Book About Family* by Luisa Uribe (Illustrator) shows various families. These books help children see their own families and other kinds of families, too.

The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes by Mark Pett and Gary Rubenstein is important to me as an aspiring educator. I think kids struggle more with fear and anxiety than they used to,



and this book could open their eyes to understand how to deal with those things. I also see myself in this book in some of the character's struggles, and since I personally relate to it, I think that that would help me be more passionate about using it in my classroom. I would like this book because it encourages students to be resilient and fearless. I hope that it would encourage my students to be open to new experiences and be willing to make mistakes, knowing that they can learn from them and move forward even stronger. I would love to have the book *Toot and Puddle* by Holly Hobbie in my future classroom. This book is nostalgic for me as I read it as a child. It is such a good book for learning the importance of individual experiences. It also models how students (and teachers) should appreciate each other for who they are. There is also the model of the friendship between the characters which is really good. I love *Sorry (Really Sorry)* by Joanna Cotler. It would be such a good book to have in the future as it is about how powerful an apology can be. It also emphasizes that there are different kinds of apologies. There are sincere apologies and insincere apologies. I think it would be really good for children to understand the difference between them. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle is a classic book that I would want to have in my classroom. It is basic and gives students a concrete place to be in their reading journey. The concepts are simple and the illustrations are high quality. I would like to have *My Shapes Mis Formas* by Rebecca Emberley as well. I think that it would be fantastic to have some books that have both English and Spanish translations. This would be helpful to both English Language Learners and native English speakers. I would choose *Thank you, Omu!* by Oge Mora as another book to have in my future classroom. It is a heartwarming book that would help children understand community and generosity, which I think are crucial to a well-functioning classroom. I would also pick *Busy, Busy Town* by Richard Scarry. It is valuable to have some books with animals that teach important lessons, and I think that this book



is one of them. Since there are animals, it might also make the book more interesting for kids. Finally, I would have *My Magical Choices* by Becky Cummings in my preschool library. It models for kids how powerful the choices that we make are. It encourages children to be leaders by choosing to be responsible, fun, honest, friendly, gentle, etc. I think that this collection of books is such a great resource for the future. It is amazing how it all came together. I am grateful to have completed this project and I am happy that I now have a preschool library collection.